

Def. Coc. 1114

TALK OF FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN ON BOMBINGS
OF NANKING AND CANTON. (September 27 1937)

We have not received detailed official information such as the report spread elsewhere regarding the result of the bombing. The Reuter report from Canton is especially exaggerated due to the fact that its correspondent at Canton is a Chinese, named Liang,--a fact which will explain the utter unreliability of the report. (The London Reuter of very recent date has corrected the false reports). Even if the facts are not so sensational as reported, it is absolutely impossible that the Japanese forces make non-combatants the objectives of their attacks. That was the very reason the Japanese had given a previous notice concerning their bombing. This was given in order to prevent any untoward misfortunes befalling foreign diplomats at Nanking; and simultaneously, with this notice, Vice-Admiral Hasegawa, Commander in Chief of the Third Fleet, warned Chinese citizens of Nanking, urging them to keep away from the military works and establishments which would be made the objectives of the Japanese attack.

In both Nanking and Canton, Chinese military establishments,-- in other words, buildings and other kinds of establishments which are employed for military purposes, are not segregated from the residential and business districts of the citizens in general. This fact is not clearly understood by foreigners, some of whom seem to believe that

TALK OF FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN ON BOMBINGS
OF NANKING AND CANTON. (September 27 1937)

We have not received detailed official information such as the report spread elsewhere regarding the result of the bombing. The Reuter report from Canton is especially exaggerated due to the fact that its correspondent at Canton is a Chinese, named Liang,--a fact which will explain the utter unreliability of the report. (The London Reuter of very recent date has corrected the false reports). Even if the facts are not so sensational as reported, it is absolutely impossible that the Japanese forces make non-combatants the objectives of their attacks. That was the very reason the Japanese had given a previous notice concerning their bombing. This was given in order to prevent any untoward misfortunes befalling foreign diplomats at Nanking; and simultaneously, with this notice, Vice-Admiral Hasegawa, Commander in Chief of the Third Fleet, warned Chinese citizens of Nanking, urging them to keep away from the military works and establishments which would be made the objectives of the Japanese attack.

In both Nanking and Canton, Chinese military establishments,--in other words, buildings and other kinds of establishments which are employed for military purposes, are not segregated from the residential and business districts of the citizens in general. This fact is not clearly understood by foreigners, some of whom seem to believe that

Def. Doc. # 1114

all military establishments are outside the city proper, and that the Japanese forces are deliberately making non combatants their objectives--thus making unreasonable criticisms against the Japanese forces. We cannot but urge the authorities of Nanking and Canton to give advance notice to their citizens, who live in and around those military establishments that are likely to be directly damaged by bombs, to seek safety in areas other than the fighting zone.

Nothing has been settled concerning the law regarding aerial combat. Regarding this, we cannot help recollecting that, in 1922 when the conference having to do with the law concerning aerial combats was held at the Hague, Japan, the United States, Italy and several other countries insisted that the objects of bombardment should be limited and concretely enumerated, while both England and France emphasized that all that could be accepted as military establishments might well be bombed.

Moreover, according to the latest informations, the rate of successful hits of Japanese air raids upon Canton was high; and the military establishments, e.g., the PaiOyun Aerodrome, Tien-ho Aerodrome, Tseng-pu powder-magazine, Tsung-hua Aerodrome, Lu-men Aerodrome, the First Ammunition Factory, Shih-ching Arsenal, Cha-teu Smokeless Powder Factory, Military Academy--were bombed; and the alleged report (by Reuter) that a large number of non-combatants were killed and wounded was found to be entirely a Chinese fabrication.

Ref. Doc. # 1114

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I HAYASHI, Kageo, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 3 pages and entitled "Talk of Foreign Office Spokesman on Bombings of Nanking and Canton, September 27, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,

on this 8th day of April 1947.

/s/ K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: /s/ K. Urabe

五三、南京廣東南門スル情報部手帳

(昭和十二年九月二十七日) (於外人記者会見)

日本政府ニオイトハルヘラレル如キ空軍ノ結果ニツキ充分ノ報告ニ授シテキ
ナイ、片頁ノ「ロイタル」電報ハ最も強硬的ナルガ、同地ノ知信員ハ支那
人禁禁テアルカラ最モ信ヲオヤシイ事實ノ真相ハ極ヘラレル如キ「センセー
シヨナル」ナルモノテナイト思フガ、非難員ヲ攻メノ目標トスルコトハ極
ニ注意テハナイ、日本ハ非難員ヲ目標トシテ攻メスルカ如キコトハ所ジ
テナイトソレ故ニ知信員ニ先ダツテ報告シタ次第ナル即チ南京ニオケル各國外
交官ニ對シテハ第一ノ不慮ノ災害ガナイヤウ極メ懇切ニ通告シ前ニ二十日受
名川司令官ハ支那人ニ對シ我ラ攻メノ目標ナル軍事施設附近ヨリ避難スルヤ
ウニ一般警告ヲ付シタ殊ニ南京廣東南市ニオイトハ軍事施設及軍事關係建
物、軍需スレバ敵性ヲ有スル建築物及ハ施設ガ一般市民ヤ軍隊等ト誤認分
サレタ地域ニナクソレ等ト混在シテキルコトデアル、某國ノ如キハコノ點ノ
認識ガ十分デナクモ施設ハスベテ市内ノ外ニアルモノノ如ク誤解シテ居リ

コレガタメ市中ノ愛國ハ故意ニ非限員ヲ目標トスルハ望ミテアルト誤解シ、自
 本質ヲ明シテキノハ其當ノ非限員トイハネバナラマ、故ニ東京、神奈川、文
 明、當局ニ對シテハ其ノタメニ目的ニ侵害ヲ蒙ルベキ點アル地域ニ居住マタハ
 營業スル市民ニ對シテハ其ノ安全見地ニ懸念セシメルコトニツイテ極力ナキヲ
 要望セサルヲ尋々、其限員ニ對シテ設立セラレタモノノナイコトハ一九二二年
 「ヘーグ」ノ空氣會議ノ際、米、佛等が空氣ノ目的物ヲ具體的ニ制限列
 スベキコトヲ主張シタノニ對シ、オヨソ軍用目的物ト認メ得ルモノハスベテコ
 レヲ空氣スベシト主張シタノハ其旨同クデアツタイヤサツヲ想定セサルヲ得ナ
 イ、ナホ最近入手シタ情報ニコレバ日本空氣ノ所負空氣中舉ハ正當テ事
 實ニ的中シ居リ「ロイテル」等ノ初メ報シタル如ク非限員多數ニ死傷者ヲ出
 シタ事實ハナカッタ誤解デアル。